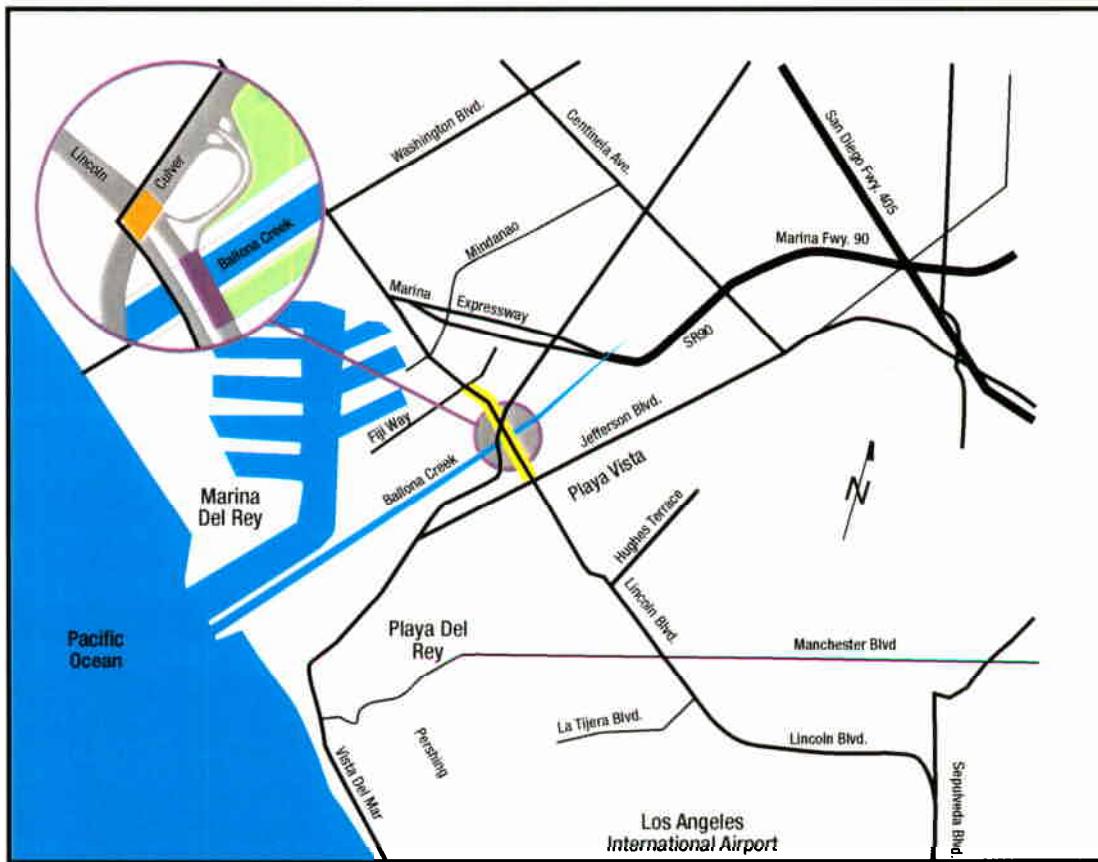


Route 1 (Lincoln Boulevard)

**Widening from Jefferson Blvd. to Fiji Way,
Construction of a New Bridge over Ballona Creek,
and Replacement of the Culver Blvd. Overcrossing**

Draft Initial Study/Environmental Assessment (IS/EA)



California Department of Transportation
Los Angeles, District 7
Office of Environmental Planning



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SCH No. _____
07-LA-1
KP 48.5/49.4, 48.9, and 49.0
07-166050, 166060, and 166070

NEGATIVE DECLARATION (CEQA)

Pursuant to: Division 13, Public Resources Code

Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to improve traffic conditions on Route 1 (Lincoln Boulevard) in the City of Los Angeles, in Los Angeles County, through a proposed project whereby Route 1 will be widened from Jefferson Boulevard to Fiji Way, a new bridge over Ballona Creek will be constructed, and the Culver Boulevard Overcrossing will be replaced.

The above stated portion of Route 1 is a heavily traveled artery which traverses the highly urbanized area of West Los Angeles. This particular stretch of Route 1 is within the Los Angeles Basin and is generally flat. Land uses within the project limits include undeveloped land (portions of which are zoned either commercial, residential, or agricultural), some of which is currently being developed, stretching nearly the entire length between Fiji Way and Jefferson Boulevard, with commercial properties beginning immediately south of Fiji Way. The Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) is located approximately 1.0-1.5 miles to the south of the project area; the Marina del Rey Small Craft Harbor is approximately 1/4 mile to the west; and the City of Santa Monica is approximately 3 miles to the north.

A project is necessary in order to reduce the existing congestion-related intersection accident rates that are anticipated to increase in the future. The proposed project is intended to match roadway capacity with anticipated traffic growth, since traffic demands, congestion, and congestion related accidents are expected to increase if necessary improvements are not made to the corridor.

Determination

An Initial Study has been prepared by Caltrans. On the basis of this study, it is determined that the proposed project will not have a significant effect upon the environment for the following reasons: (1) the proposed project will not significantly affect topography, seismic exposure, floodplains, wetlands, or water quality; (2) the proposed project will not significantly affect natural vegetation, sensitive, endangered, or threatened plant or animal species, or agriculture; (3) the proposed project will not significantly affect solid waste or the consumption of energy and natural resources; (4) the proposed project may uncover hazardous waste in the form of lead-contaminated soils or asbestos, but ~~reuse of the soil, or disposal~~ of the soil and/or asbestos, will be in conformance with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control regulations; (5) the proposed project will promote improved regional air quality; (6) the proposed project may affect noise levels, but noise barriers are not practical or effective because the vast majority of the project segment is currently undeveloped, or because of required driveway openings along this segment; (7) the proposed project will not significantly affect land use, public facilities, or other socioeconomic features; (8) the proposed project will require no acquisition of property since the City of Los Angeles will donate the required right-of-way as a highway easement; (9) the proposed project will not significantly affect aesthetics, parklands, open space, or cultural, paleontological, historic, or scenic resources.

Ronald Kosinski, Acting Division Chief
District 7
California Department of Transportation

Date

ROUTE 1 (LINCOLN BOULEVARD)

WIDENING
from JEFFERSON BOULEVARD
to FIJI WAY (KP 48.5 to 49.4),
the

CONSTRUCTION of a NEW BRIDGE over BALLONA CREEK
(KP 48.9),
and the

REPLACEMENT of the CULVER BOULEVARD OVERCROSSING
(KP 49.0)

in the CITY OF LOS ANGELES

The proposed project consists of widening Route 1 between Jefferson Boulevard and Fiji Way, constructing a new bridge over Ballona Creek located immediately east of, and parallel to, the existing Lincoln Boulevard Bridge over Ballona Creek, and replacing the existing Culver Boulevard Overcrossing with a new Overcrossing.

DRAFT INITIAL STUDY / ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
(IS/EA)

**State of California
Department of Transportation
and
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration**

Pursuant to: **42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY RONALD KOSINSKI ON DECEMBER 6, 2000
RONALD KOSINSKI DATE
Acting Division Chief
California Department of Transportation

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CESAR PEREZ ON DECEMBER 12, 2000
MICHAEL G. RITCHIE DATE
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. PROJECT PURPOSE, NEED, AND JUSTIFICATION.....	3
1.1 INTRODUCTION	3
1.2 PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED	3
1.3 TRAFFIC AND ACCIDENT CONDITIONS	3
1.3.1 Current and Forecasted Traffic	3
1.3.2 Accident Rates	6
2. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT AND ALTERNATIVES	13
2.1 INTRODUCTION	13
2.2 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED.....	13
2.2.1 Alternative 1 - The “No Build” Alternative.....	13
2.2.2 Alternative 2 - Proposed Project.....	13
2.2.3 North/South Corridor Alternatives Considered but Rejected	14
2.2.4 Conclusion – A Clear Basis for Choice	16
2.3 OTHER PROJECTS	16
2.3.1 Related Caltrans Projects	16
2.3.2 Playa Vista Development.....	18
2.3.3 Marina del Rey Local Coastal Plan (LCP)	19
2.3.4 LAX Master Plan	19
2.3.5 West Bluff Development	19
3. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT.....	23
3.1 INTRODUCTION	23
3.2 TOPOGRAPHY.....	23
3.2.1 Geology.....	23
3.2.2 Soils	23
3.2.3 Seismicity.....	23
3.3 HYDROLOGY	24
3.3.1 Surface Water.....	24
3.3.2 Floodplain	24
3.3.3 Groundwater	24
3.4 AIR QUALITY	26
3.4.1 Air Basin and Air Quality Issues	26
3.4.2 Regulatory and Planning Requirements.....	26
3.4.3 Federal Attainment Status.....	27
3.4.4 State Standards.....	27
3.5 HAZARDOUS WASTE.....	27
3.6 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES	29
3.7 LAND USE AND PLANNING.....	29
3.8 SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES	30
3.9 PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES	31
3.10 CULTURAL RESOURCES	31

TABLE OF CONTENTS, LIST OF FIGURES, AND LIST OF TABLES

3.11 VISUAL	32
3.12 NOISE.....	32
3.12.1 Fundamentals of Traffic Noise	32
3.12.2 Affected Projects.....	35
3.12.3 Noise Abatement Criteria (NAC)	35
3.12.4 Federal Requirements	35
3.12.5 California Requirements	35
Noise Environment	37
4. ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION	41
4.1 INTRODUCTION	41
4.2 LIST OF TECHNICAL STUDIES/REPORTS	41
4.3 ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE CHECKLIST.....	42
5. DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION	47
6. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION	65
6.1 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT.....	65
6.2 LOCAL COORDINATION.....	65
6.3 MAILING LIST	65
6.3.1 Elected Officials.....	65
6.3.2 Responsible Agencies, Review Agencies, and Trustee Agencies	66
6.3.3 Interested Individuals and Organizations.....	67
7. LIST OF PREPARERS	71
8. TITLE VI POLICY STATEMENT	75
9. APPENDICES	79
APPENDIX A – AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH	81
APPENDIX B – LAYOUT PLANS	85
APPENDIX C – TYPICAL CROSS SECTIONS: ROADWAY	91
APPENDIX D – TYPICAL CROSS SECTION: NEW BALLONA BRIDGE	97
APPENDIX E – TYPICAL CROSS SECTIONS: NEW CULVER BLVD. O/C	101

TABLE OF CONTENTS, LIST OF FIGURES, AND LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1	Regional Location Map.....	PAGE 4
Figure 2	Project Location Map.....	PAGE 5
Figures 3	Route 1 Related Projects.....	PAGE 17
Figures 4	Ballona Creek Watershed.....	PAGE 25

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1	Level of Service Definitions for Signalized Intersections.....	PAGE 7
Table 2	Existing and Forecast Traffic Volumes on Route-1.....	PAGE 8
Table 3	Intersection Peak Hour Levels of Service Existing and..... Forecast Conditions With and Without Project	PAGE 9
Table 4	Traffic Accident Surveillance and Analysis System (TASAS)..... July 1 st , 1996 – June 30 th , 1999	PAGE 10
Table 5	Ambient Air Quality Standards.....	PAGE 28
Table 6	Typical Noise Levels.....	PAGE 34
Table 7	Noise Abatement Criteria (NAC).....	PAGE 36